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Examiner: Roy R. Teller

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THIS MESSAGE IS FROM:

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Appl'n. No.: 10/581,166

Filing Date: May 31, 2006

Docket No.: 21457P

For: INHIBITION OF VOLUNTARY ETHANOL CONSUMPTION WITH SELECTIVE
MELANOCOTIN 4-RECEPTOR AGONISTS

NUMBER OF PAGES BEING TRANSMITTED (INCLUDING COVER): 3

Documents sent: Facsimile Cover Sheet (1 pg.) and Response (2 pgs.)

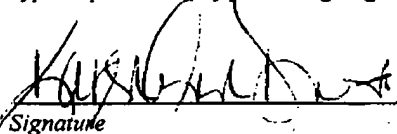
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: MARSH, et al.

Serial No.: 10/581,166

Case No.: 21457P

Art Unit:
1654

Filed: May 31, 2006

Examiner:
Teller, Roy R.Entitled: INHIBITION OF VOLUNTARY ETHANOL
CONSUMPTION WITH SELECTIVE
MELANOCORTIN 4-RECEPTOR AGONISTSVia Facsimile – (571) 273-8300
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 12, 2008, for which a response is due July 12, 2008, please consider the following remarks.

The Examiner alleged that the captioned patent application does not meet the unity of invention requirements under PCT Rule 13.1. The Examiner did not divide the claimed subject matter into any patentably distinct groups. The Examiner is requested to withdraw the election requirement and examine all of the claims that are pending in the application. First, the compounds that are claimed fall within the genus of formula I. Hence they are related structurally.

Second, the compounds share a common utility, namely for use in treating or inhibiting alcohol consumption.

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Since there is a substantial structural core (Formula I) in common and a common utility, it is urged that unity exists for the claimed methods of treatment.

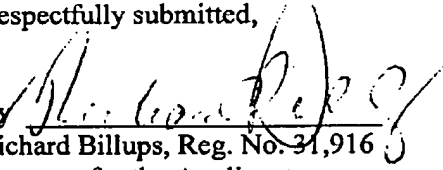
If the Examiner determines that the restriction is proper, he is requested to indicate the patentably distinct groups of inventions, and the basis for his belief.

Applicants elect for the purpose of examination the compound of Example 4. This species appears in the specification on page 24, line 10 (Compound A). Claims 1, 6, 9 and 10 are readable on this structure.

Applicants have made this election with the understanding that if the elected species is found to be allowable, the Examiner will examine the genus of claims readable thereon and a reasonable number of disclosed species in addition to the elected species.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Attorney for the Applicants

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Date: July 8, 2008